

Laconia Human Relations Committee

October 12, 2021 - Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

David Stamps welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Laconia Human Relations Committee. Committee member roll call was taken, a quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 3:34pm.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present – Chair David Stamps, Carol Pierce, David Osman, Rev. Judith Wright, Matt Soza, Trish Weatherbee and Carrie Chandler

Present via Zoom – Margaret Donnelly and Kate Bruchacova

Excused – Mayor Andrew Hosmer, Janet Simmon, Kay Anderson and Seifu Ragassa

III. OLD BUSINESS

Minutes Approval – **A motion was made by Matt Soza, seconded by David Osman, to accept the minutes of the September 13, 2021 Laconia Human Relations Committee. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.**

Homeless Taskforce – no update.

Community Festival – Belknap Mill is hosting an event on October 16th from 12-4 pm. Trish shared with the committee a historical game to engage the community at our table. The sign “Everyone is Welcome in Laconia” will be available to purchase for \$10 to support future programming.

Refugees – Laconia is not currently being considered for home relocation.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Programming Planning – Margaret proposed structuring programming in a sustainable, mission-based, way which would help set the stage for community expectations and engagement. This framework will include quarterly forums offered around a central theme – “Inclusion and Equity;” in which everyone is deserving of opportunity (access to affordable housing, health care, education and voting). The committee agreed to the proposal premise.

Related thoughts:

- Democracy 2024
- Diversity Trainers & Teachers
- Tap into University System as a resource
- “What the constitution means to me” – Amazon Prime
- Strong facilitator
- Have an overarching introduction
- Create community interaction
- Perhaps first forum is a community meeting to talk about deficits around inclusion and equity and to guide planning for future forums
- Further refine the process
- Budget will support these programs

MLK Jr. Day – January 16th; sub-committee to meet via zoom on 10/25 at 12:30 am to further brainstorm.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present for public comment.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Matt Soza, seconded by Carol Pierce, to adjourn the meeting – and at 4:49p the meeting was adjourned by Chair David Stamps.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8, 2021, 3:30p in person and via zoom invite.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Chandler,
Recording Secretary